

Mahoning Valley Messenger

Tracy S. Malone, Resident Bishop, East Ohio Conference United Methodist Church
Cara Stultz Costello/Angela Lewis Co-District Superintendents, Mahoning Valley District
Rick Oaks, District Associate; Stefanie Krugel, Administrative Assistant;
Jeff Williamson, Treasurer

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Phone: 330-270-3400
E-mail:
office@mvdistumc.org

Welcome each new district power combo

Below are the new District Superintendent Teams

Article on page 2



Rev. Nestor Nazario
West Plains District
Superintendent



Rev. Donna Van Trees
West Plains District
Superintendent Associate



Rev. Kelly Brown
South Forest District
Superintendent



Rev. Laura White
South Forest District
Superintendent



Rev. Edgar Brady
Central Valley District
Superintendent



Rev. Cara Stultz Costello
Central Valley District
Superintendent



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock
Northern Waters District
Superintendent



Rev. Angela Lewis
Northern Waters District
Superintendent

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“So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation, everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.” - II Corinthians 5:17-18

Hear the good news! God is always making all things new! All of this ... new life, new perspectives, new opportunities, new direction, and a new future with hope ... is from God!

The restructuring from 10 to four districts effective January 1 will re-direct more attention to the local church, provide greater stewardship, alignment, and flexibility of resources, generate more opportunity for creative ministries, strengthen the possibility for the revitalization of churches, and increase the efforts of starting fresh expressions and new faith communities.

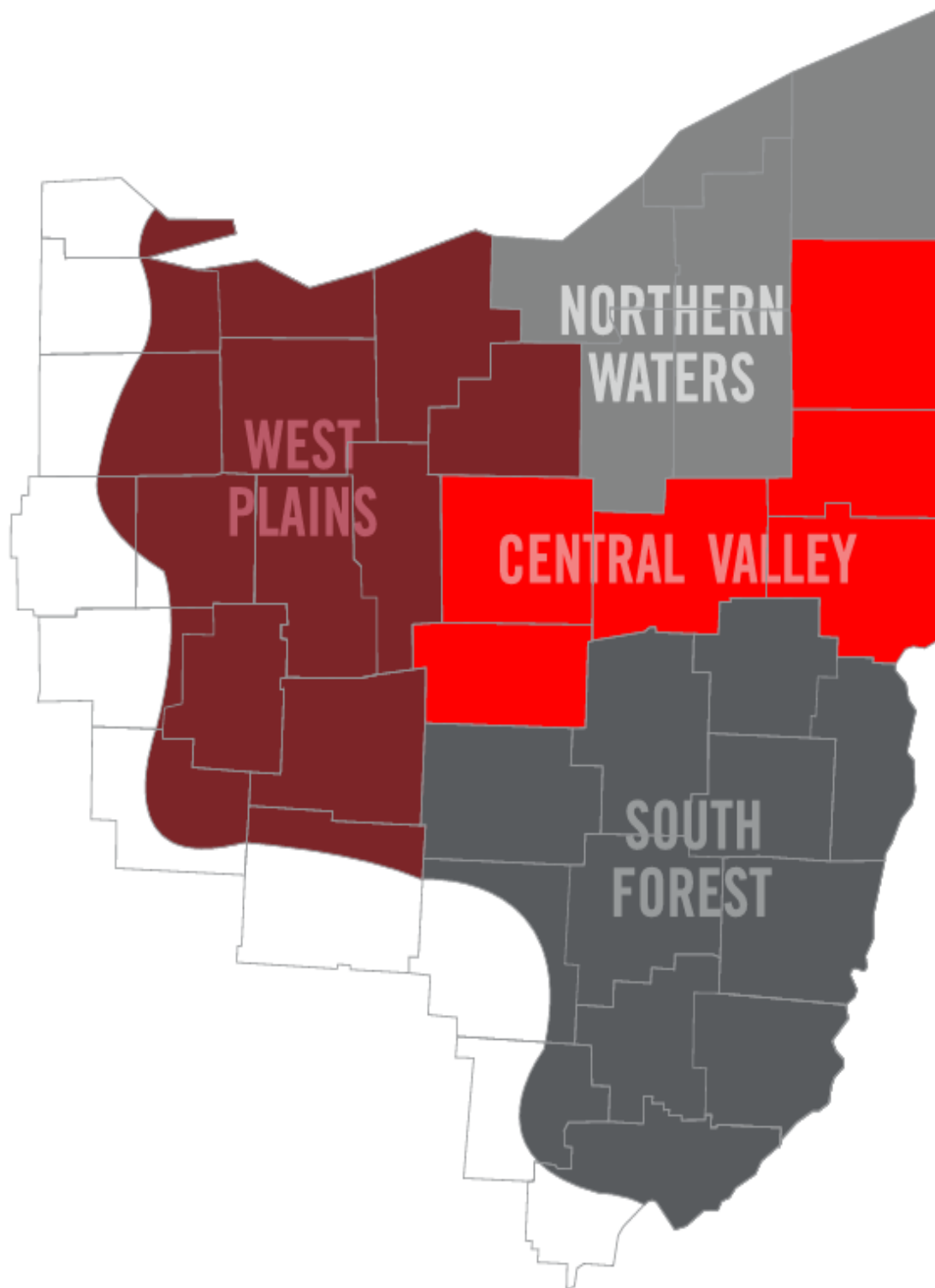
Districts are an integral part of the East Ohio Conference structure and are made up of communities of people, laity and clergy, who work together regionally to share the Good News of the Gospel, to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, and to fulfill our shared mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”.

In the next few months, there will be more information forthcoming about district structure, leadership, office locations, staffing, and more.

[Read Bishop Malone's message in its entirety.](#)
[Download and share the re-districting pdf.](#)

DISTRICT NAMES

The re-mapping of the four new districts of the East Ohio Conference was announced September 27 and an invitation was extended that day to submit potential names of the new districts, which were designated A, B, C, and D in the release. Thank you for your suggestions. After prayerful consideration and discussion with Cabinet, the names of the new districts are: West Plains (A), South Forest (B), Central Valley (C), and Northern Waters (D).





East Ohio E-News

E-News is the bi-weekly electronic newsletter of the East Ohio Conference. Its purpose is to communicate the many ways that conference clergy and laity are making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The electronic newsletter includes messages from Bishop Malone and other announcements regarding the mission and ministry within The East Ohio Conference. [Click Here:](#) to visit the East Ohio E-News webpage. When you click on the link it will take you to the conference website page, on the right will be a space for you to enter your email address so that you can receive them straight from the Conference Office.

RETIREE BREAKFAST

Wed., November 29, 9:00 a.m. at
Eat 'N Park,
5451 Mahoning Ave. Austintown.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

All those still suffering from COVID-19 in different ways; all pastors and churches during this busy and challenging period of transition.

Please also pray for Elaine Weaver (Retired Local Pastor), Joan Ready (Widow of Rev. Chuck Ready) Rev. Douglas Lewis

District Office Hours

Monday thru Friday: 8:30 A.M.– 4 P.M. unless otherwise notified or due to illness.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Also: if you have changed your address, phone number or email address in the last few years, please email all the updated information to the district office so I can update the data base. We had several people that could not register for annual conference because we had outdated information. Very much appreciated.

Fall Charge Conference

It's Done!!!

Big thank you to all the district churches for showing up in full force for this years charge conference.

If any of you took forms back to your church to get signatures, please make sure I get those back ASAP.

I appreciate each and every one of you and all the time and effort that you have put in to make sure your charge packets were all in on time.

I am truly blessed by working with you.
Stefanie



EARLY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) TRAINING

*Two dates & locations, register for the one that works best for you!
Both days will be from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Full details are in the links below.*

Friday, November 10

Wanake Camp & Retreat Center

https://ERT_WANAKE.eventbrite.com



Saturday, November 11

Chardon UMC

https://ERT_Chardon.eventbrite.com



Learn best practices for responding as a volunteer in disaster situations. Training includes how to interact with survivors, help survivors recover belongings, tarp roofs, and safely remove debris. Successful completion of the training and a background check is required to receive your credentials as a certified UMCOR ERT volunteer for three years. Cost is \$25 and includes class materials, t-shirt, food, and the required UMCOR background check.

If you have questions or need to register by mail, please contact
Melanie Thomas mthomas@eocumc.com or (330) 499-3972 ext. 102



**Missions &
Community Engagement**
EAST OHIO CONFERENCE

Hello East Ohio Clergy and Pastors,

Let's face it, reaching young people is a challenge, especially now. New challenges are bubbling up all around us and many tried and true methods aren't as effective as they once were. It can feel overwhelming, but the good news is you are not alone in the struggle. This event is an invitation to connect with other United Methodist leaders as we share ideas and brainstorm for the future of youth ministry in your local church and beyond.

Come join new Co-Directors of Young People's Ministries, Tim Beck and Pastor Christy Suffecool, as we dream up new methods together. Our goal is to help you reimagine youth ministry in your setting, offering practical next steps to connect meaningfully with teens.

Below is the Eventbrite link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reimagining-youth-ministry-in-the-post-covid-age-tickets-691960671997?aff=oddttdcreator>

If you have active Youth Ministry leaders, please share with them. I hope to meet you soon! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Blessings,

Tim Beck

Co-Director of Young People's Ministries

East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church

If you received this email in error, please do not mark as spam. Reply with remove in the subject and I will update my contacts.

HAPPENINGS at Western Reserve UMC 4580 Canfield Rd., Canfield 44406

November meeting: United Women in Faith of Western Reserve Church will meet on Thursday, November 9 at noon in the fellowship hall for a luncheon and program. After a pot-luck lunch, Barbara Irwin will give a presentation called "Love Thine Enemies" based on the book by Arthur Brooks. We will also be taking an offering for the World Thank Offering, which goes directly to mission organizations around the world. Please join us and bring a dish to share if you are able. All women are welcome, so feel free to bring a friend! The executive officers will meet at 10:30 am. For more information, contact Diane Price.

Pumpkin Roll fundraiser: Thank you to those of you who volunteered to make pumpkin rolls! We will sell the pumpkin rolls we have already made (frozen) at church on Sunday, November 12 after both services. They will be sold for \$13.00 each on a first-come, first-serve basis. The proceeds will be split between the church repair fund and local missions. We plan to make additional pumpkin rolls on Tuesday, November 14 between 10 am and 3 pm to sell on Sunday, November 19. If you would be able to help on any of those dates, please let me know if you haven't already.

Christmas lunch: On Thursday, December 14 we will meet at The Bistro at MCCTC in Canfield at 11:15 AM for our Christmas lunch. The Bistro is student-run and offers good food at very reasonable prices. Please RSVP for this event. Instead of a gift exchange, we are asking that everyone bring a \$10 or \$20 gift card (for a retail or grocery store) for Protestant Family Services to be given to needy families.

Also, don't forget our Drive-thru Turkey Dinner on Thursday, November 2. Helpers are needed both Wednesday and Thursday next week. Let Pat Hassell know if you'd like to help. Thank you!

For more information or to RSVP, call or text Diane Price at (330) 786-7517

Or email ddprice@zoominternet.net

August 29, 2023

Greetings Pastor,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I pray you have had a safe summer. **Mahoning Valley Lay Servant Ministry Classes will be held in November 2023!**



LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES (LSM) is one of the most significant **LAY LEADERSHIP** development programs available within the United Methodist connection. Through this equipping and empowering system, laity have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples.

ANYONE can register to take Lay Servant Ministry Classes. You do not have to be United Methodist.

1. **BASIC COURSE**: foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries
2. Additional Advanced Classes can be taken to achieve **CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT** status
3. **Specific** Advanced Classes must be taken to achieve **CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER** status

MAHONING VALLEY

LAY SERVANT MINISTRY FALL CLASSES - IN PERSON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023 8 AM -5 PM \$35 Registration Fee

BOARDMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6809 Market Street, Youngstown (Boardman)

Breakfast & Lunch will be provided

REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE.COM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mahoning-valley-lay-servant-training-fall-2023-tickets-598427210897?aff=oddtcreator>
if having problems with link - call Cyd and she will email it to you

Classes that are being offered:

BASIC -Foundations of Lay Servant Ministries taught by Rev. Rick Oakes

Lay SERVANT Track: TRANSFORMING EVANGELISM taught by Pastor Dick Smith

Lay SPEAKER Track: FROM YOUR HEART TO THEIRS: Delivering an effective sermon
taught by Mark McTrusty

To comply with learning time standards, participants will be expected to complete reading/written assignments prior to class. Assignments will be provided via email after you register on Eventbrite.com

Please contact Cyd Scarnecchia if you have any questions about classes being offered, someone's class status, or about the Lay Servant Ministry program in general.

Blessings for a wonderful day!

Cyd Scarnecchia

Cyd Scarnecchia

Mahoning Valley District Director Lay Servant Ministries

21 Summerberry Lane, Niles, OH 44446

Mobile: 330-883-5343 (preferred over email)

Email: SCARNIC@sbcglobal.net (not case sensitive but easier to read)

We Pray for Peace

United Methodists are saddened by the significant loss of life caused by the ongoing violence and we pray for peace in the Holy Land. We continue to pray for those who have lost family members and livelihoods, the injured, for those who perpetuate violence and for World Leaders that they may work for peace, the churches and all religious leaders and for those who work for peace in the region.

We know the situation is complicated, and we recognize the fear and sense of injustice that is felt, but we call on both sides not to resort to further violence and to engage in negotiation to establish a peace-ful solution for all who live in the Holy Land. As Christians, “we believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ. We therefore reject war as an instrument of national foreign poli-cy.” (2016 Book of Discipline, Social Principles ¶165.C)

UMCOR has awarded an emergency grant to a local partner who used the funds to procure and distribute 300 hygiene kits for internally displaced people in Gaza. UMCOR is working with partners in Israel to provide humanitarian relief there as well.

You can help war-torn Israel and Gaza and donate through UMCOR’s international disaster relief fund #1301 or indicate “Israel/Gaza” on the memo line of your check. Donating to Israel and Gaza, it's the same process as donating in response to natural disasters and can be found online here <https://www.eocumc.com/missions/disaster-response.html>

They can donate to the conference through Fund 1301 and indicate "Israel/Gaza" in the memo. 100% gets sent to UMCOR International Disaster Response.

UMCOR statement is online here <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-international-latest-responses/>

Online donations to Fund 1301 here <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEDZ/campaign/C-13T4P>